GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:225
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2001
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether inadequate infrastructure facilities and insurgency are the crucial factors hindering the development of the North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to provide infrastructure and control insurgency in the Region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.225 due for answer on 7.8.2001.

(a)to(c): Inadequate infrastructure facilities and insurgency are indeed among the important factors hindering the development process in North Eastern Region.

The following major steps have been taken to provide infrastructure in the North Eastern Region:

(i) Increased investment in transport, communication and power development;

(ii) Giving North Eastern Council (NEC) greater authority for investment.

(iii) Implementation of special schemes and financial packages for the development of North Eastern States as announced by Prime Ministers from time to time;

(iv) Implementation of the agenda for socio-economic development of North Eastern States and Sikkim as announced by the Prime Minister in January, 2000 at Shillong;

(v) North Eastern States and Sikkim notified as Special Category States, and 90% of the Central Government funds are given as grant from the Central Government.

(vi) Earmarking 10% of the annual budget of all the Central Ministries to be spent compulsorily in the North Eastern Region, except for a few exempted Ministries and creating a non-lapsable, pool out of any unspent budgetary funds to be spent only in NE.

(vii) Providing helicopter services to some of the States of the North Eastern Region for which 75% subsidy is provided by Government of India.

Against insurgency in North Eastern Region, following steps have been taken:

(i) Declaration of major militant organisations as `Unlawful Associations`.

(ii) Declaration of most seriously affected areas as `Disturbed Areas`.

(iii) Deployment of Central Para Military Forces and the Army.

(iv) Sanction of India Reserve Battalions.

(v) Improved coordination and sharing of intelligence between security forces.

(vi) Attempts to bring ultra outfits to the negotiating table for peace talks.

(vii) Reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure.

(viii) Special scheme for modernisation of police forces.

(ix) Rehabilitation scheme for surrendered militants.